

Appendix B: Letters of Notification:

Delta Protection Commission

Skip Thomson, Solano County Supervisor

Dave Rosenberg, Yolo County Supervisor



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

2233 Watt Avenue, Suite 230

Sacramento, CA 95825

916/979-2085

April 8, 1999

Delta Protection Commission
14215 River Road
PO Box 530
Walnut Grove, CA 95690

To Whom It May Concern:

In an effort to advance our land protection program at Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and the proposed North Delta National Wildlife Refuge, we are applying for two grants from CALFED. To comply with CALFED notification requirements, we are providing you with written notification of our plans.

For Stone Lakes NWR, the grant application to CALFED asks for funds to 1) complete full funding toward acquisition of three properties within the approved refuge project area (balance of funds provided by Packard Foundation); 2) provide full funding to Trust for Public Land to acquire a fourth property within the refuge project area on our behalf; and 3) acquire Sacramento River water rights owned by Delta Sugar Corporation near Clarksburg, which is in Yolo County.

For the proposed North Delta NWR, we are asking for approximately \$2.25 million to 1) acquire property on Liberty Island from willing sellers; 2) fund the restoration planning process; and 3) begin restoration on Liberty Island.

It is our policy to work only with willing sellers and to offer them a variety of options to consider, ranging from partnering and technical assistance to easements and fee title purchase. Offers are based on fair market value of the property. Three of the parties wish to sell in fee title to the Service; the fourth prefers an agricultural easement. Options have been signed on two of the properties and a third is being negotiated now.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Harvey
Project Leader



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge
2233 Watt Avenue, Suite 230
Sacramento, CA 95825
916/979-2085

April 15, 1999

Margit Aramburu
Delta Protection Commission
14215 River Road
PO Box 530
Walnut Grove, CA 95690

Dear Ms. Aramburu:

Recently, we notified you that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is applying for two CALFED grants. One grant is focused on Liberty Island and a second covers Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. As we make final preparations to submit these grant requests, we have made a few adjustments on the Liberty Island proposal and wish to share the following information with you.

Liberty Island: Our grant application now requests fund to: 1) acquire the two remaining properties on Liberty Island; 2) prepare and implement a restoration plan for Liberty Island; 3) monitor the restoration effort in concert with monitoring developed for Prospect Island; 4) operate and manage the restored island for three years; and 5) acquire two additional properties near Liberty Island and within the proposed North Delta National Wildlife Refuge project area. We anticipate the full amount to fund these items will be approximately \$12.8 million.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Harvey
Project Leader



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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge
2233 Watt Avenue, Suite 230
Sacramento, CA 95825
916/979-2085

April 9, 1999

Skip Thomson
Solano County Supervisor
580 Texas Street
Fairfield, CA 94533

Dear Mr. Thomson:

In an effort to advance our land protection program at Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and the proposed North Delta National Wildlife Refuge, we are applying for two grants from CALFED. To comply with CALFED notification requirements, we are providing you with written notification of our plans.

For Stone Lakes NWR, we are asking for funds to acquire Sacramento River water rights owned by Delta Sugar Corporation near Clarksburg, which is in Yolo County.

For the proposed North Delta NWR, we are asking for funds to 1) acquire property on Liberty Island from willing sellers; 2) fund the restoration planning process; and 3) begin restoration on Liberty Island.

It is our policy to work only with willing sellers and to offer them a variety of options to consider, ranging from partnering and technical assistance to easements and fee title purchase. If fee title sale is preferred, owners will be offered fair market value for their properties.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Harvey
Project Leader



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge
2233 Watt Avenue, Suite 230
Sacramento, CA 95825
916/979-2085

April 8, 1999

Dave Rosenberg
Yolo County Supervisor
625 Court Street, Room 204
Woodland, CA 95695

Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

In an effort to advance our land protection program at Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and the proposed North Delta National Wildlife Refuge, we are applying for two grants from CALFED. To comply with CALFED notification requirements, we are providing you with written notification of our plans.

For Stone Lakes NWR, we are asking for funds to acquire Sacramento River water rights owned by Delta Sugar Corporation near Clarksburg, which is in Yolo County.

For the proposed North Delta NWR, we are asking for funds to 1) acquire property on Liberty Island from willing sellers; 2) fund the restoration planning process; and 3) begin restoration on Liberty Island.

It is our policy to work only with willing sellers and to offer them a variety of options to consider, ranging from partnering and technical assistance to easements and fee title purchase. If fee title sale is preferred, owners will be offered fair market value for their properties.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Harvey
Project Leader



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2233 Watt Avenue, Suite 230

Sacramento, CA 95825

916/979-2085

April 15, 1999

Dave Rosenberg
Yolo County Supervisor
625 Court Street, Room 204
Woodland, CA 95695

Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

Recently, we notified you that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is applying for a CALFED grant to: 1) acquire the two remaining properties on Liberty Island; and 2) prepare and implement a restoration plan. As we make final adjustments on our grant proposal, we have incorporated a few additional funding requests and wanted to share these with you.

In addition to the aforementioned items, the Service and its collaborators on the project are asking for funds to: 1) cover a monitoring program to track restoration success and compare it with similar efforts on Prospect Island; 2) pay to operate and manage the island for three years; and 3) acquire two additional properties located near Liberty Island and within the proposed boundaries for the North Delta NWR.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Harvey
Project Leader

**PROPOSED NORTH DELTA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

Planning Update

PLANNING UPDATE #3**OCTOBER 1998****GREETINGS !**

This is the third in a series of updates from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the planning status for the proposed North Delta National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in the northern Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Update 3 is being sent to landowners in the planning area, government agencies, public organizations, and other interested individuals.

This update summarizes the issues, concerns, and questions that were recorded during the March 4th and July 28th public open houses and written comments received during the extended comment periods. Based upon the comments received, the Service is presently evaluating the scope of the proposed project area.

WHERE WE'VE BEEN

We would like to thank those who took the time to attend the March 4th and July 28th public open houses. We have a better understanding of your concerns and desires, and we hope you have a better understanding of our proposal and the planning process. The questions, comments, and issues identified varied from full support for the proposed refuge to concern for the effect the refuge would have on landowners and agricultural operations in this part of the Delta. There were also several comments concerning the proposed refuge and its connection with the CALFED program. For more detailed information, see the CALFED Issues section of this Update. We also provided a summary of some of the more common questions and answers regarding conservation planning and wildlife habitat protection through the land acquisition process at the July 28th open house.

WHERE ARE WE ?

As a result of the open houses and written comments received during the comment periods, the following issues and concerns have been identified: impacts to agriculture, levee maintenance, and floodwater conveyance; protection and restoration of wetlands; increased fisheries habitat in the Delta; compatible public use; and landowner property rights. Several adjoining landowners also expressed an interest in being included within the study area for the proposed refuge. During our July 28th open house, we presented a new map showing an expanded study area. We are presently evaluating this study area and determining the wildlife values.

Through the public comment process, you have helped us identify four preliminary alternatives. These four alternatives, in addition to the required "No Action" alternative, represent the public desires and concerns for the establishment of this refuge as well as providing a reasonable approach for the Service in assessing this proposed refuge. Our preliminary alternatives are briefly described below. We would appreciate your feedback for consideration in preparing our environmental assessment.

PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES**Alternative 1 - Establish 47,000 - acre North Delta NWR Boundary**

Alternative 1 is approximately 47,000 acres in size and is the largest of the refuge boundary proposals. Alternative 1 would protect a large contiguous block of habitat stretching from the southern boundary of the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area, to the southern end of the Yolo Bypass

where it meets the confluences of Cache Slough, Sacramento River and Steamboat Slough (see figure 1). Alternative 1 would provide the Service with the greatest opportunity for habitat protection in both fee title and conservation easement. It would further combine the goals of other resource management programs within this area into one effort. Approximately 39,000 acres of this area is agriculturally developed. The area also includes approximately 4,500 acres of seasonally flooded and tidally influenced wetlands, 500 acres of shaded riverine aquatic habitat, and 500 acres of riparian habitat. There is an additional 1,500 acres of levees, dikes, and roads throughout this area.

Alternative 2 - Establish 7,800 - acre North Delta NWR Boundary

Alternative 2 is approximately 7,800 acres in size. This alternative includes the initial three parcels of Prospect, Little Holland and Liberty Island, that the Service originally proposed for the refuge (see figure 2). It will also allow for the completion of presently proposed restoration and acquisition needs by the Service and other Federal and State agencies in this part of the Delta. Approximately 5,000 acres of Liberty Island is presently in agricultural development. The remaining acreage is tidally influenced wetlands with associated riparian habitat. There is approximately 300 acres in levees and roads within this proposed refuge boundary.

Alternative 3 - Establish 33,000 - acre North Delta NWR Boundary

Alternative 3 is approximately 33,000 acres in size. The proposed area incorporates existing easements within the present North Central Valley Wildlife Management Area (see figure 3). Approximately 26,000 acres of this area is agriculturally developed. There is approximately 3,500 acres of seasonally flooded, tidally influenced wetlands. The Service, in cooperation with California Department of Fish and Game, the Natural Resources Conservation

Service, and other Federal and State agencies, is also actively acquiring easements within this area. Habitat protection in both fee and easement acquisitions within this cooperative area will also assist in meeting the long-term objectives of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture Program.

Alternative 4 - Establish 14,000 - acre North Delta NWR Boundary

Alternative 4 is approximately 14,000 acres in size. This alternative would primarily focus the Service's habitat protection efforts at the southern end of the Yolo Bypass. These lands provide the easiest opportunity for conversion to tidally influenced wetlands (see figure 4). Approximately 11,000 acres of this area is presently in agricultural development. The remaining acreage supports privately owned seasonal duck clubs, tidally influenced wetlands, as well as existing levees and roads.

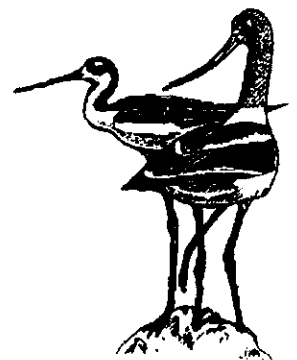
KEY AREAS OF MANAGEMENT FOCUS

The primary management focus for the proposed refuge is wildlife and habitat protection and management. The Service is committed to providing high-quality, safe, and accessible wildlife-dependent interpretive, recreational, and educational opportunities at the refuge within the capabilities of available staff and budget.

Your input will be considered to help develop the refuge management plan. The documents listed in the next section, is a starting point for discussing management of the proposed North Delta NWR.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The next step in the planning process is the preparation of an environmental assessment. A land protection plan is also being prepared.



A draft environmental assessment is scheduled for release in December of 1998. The Service will make copies available to those who request one. A 30-day comment period will follow the release of the draft assessment. During the comment period, a public meeting will be held to provide you with an opportunity to comment on the plan. If you cannot attend the public meeting, written comments will be accepted during the 30-day comment period.

FWS PLANNING DOCUMENTS

An *environmental assessment* is required whenever the Service proposes to establish a national wildlife refuge. The assessment will analyze alternative proposals for the protection of wildlife and habitat in the proposed refuge and the potential effects of those alternatives.

A *conceptual management plan* will present an overview of proposed management approaches to wildlife and habitats, public uses and wildlife-dependent recreational activities, and public outreach for the lands and waters within the proposed refuge.

A *land protection plan* will also be prepared and will be attached to the environmental assessment. The land protection plan will identify habitat protection priorities for each area of the proposed refuge.

PUBLIC MEETING

Prior to the completion of the environmental assessment, another public meeting will be held. The Service will prepare another planning update. We will announce the meeting date and place as soon as the draft environmental assessment is available for review.

PLANNING SCHEDULE

The planning schedule shown below identifies those actions which have already occurred as well as future activities. Those dates shown for future actions are anticipated dates and are

subject to change. We will inform you of any changes in these dates or meetings as soon as possible.

PROPOSED PLANNING SCHEDULE

<i>Planning Step</i>	<i>Completion Date</i>
1 st Public Open House	3/4/98
2 nd Public Open House	7/28/98
Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Land Protection Plan released	12/98
Public Meeting	1/99
Comment period ends on EA/LPP	1/99
Final EA and LPP released	2/99
Public Notice of Decision	2/99

CALFED ISSUE

During the public meetings as well as through written comments, a concern was raised about our proposal to establish this refuge and any connection with the CALFED program. The Service's authority for proposing the establishment of a national wildlife refuge is provided under several laws and acts such as the Fish and Wildlife Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Conservation Act, and the Refuge Recreation Act. Although the CALFED program and the Service's refuge program share many of the same goals and objectives, we have determined that there is no connection between the CALFED program and our authority to establish refuges. The Service, in proposing to establish a refuge, is mandated to comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The legislation authorizing the CALFED program also provided the Secretary of the Interior, under prescribed

circumstances, with the discretion to implement actions funded through CALFED prior to completion of the CALFED EIR/EIS, provided the Federal agencies comply with the requirements of NEPA. In our efforts to comply with these requirements, we must assess the effects that our proposed project may have on other programs or actions of a similar nature in the same area. A portion of this proposed project will be funded through the CALFED program. The completion of our environmental assessment will provide the necessary documentation required by NEPA.

DIVERSE HABITATS SUPPORT A VARIETY OF WILDLIFE

The purpose of the proposed refuge is to restore a variety of Delta habitats, including tidally-influenced wetlands, to benefit many fish and wildlife species. Because of their strategic location in the Yolo Bypass, restoration of these lands will substantially improve the conveyance of floodwaters through the North Delta. Before the regulation of flows and the channelization of rivers, the Delta was characterized by sluggish river channels, oxbow and floodplain lakes, swamps, and sloughs. The region's dense tules, willows, and cottonwoods supported more than 250 species of birds and mammals.

Traditionally, these lands were converted from marshlands to farmlands, which has left most of the loamy peat soils below sea level. In recent years, the levees surrounding the islands have either been breached or overtopped by water.

Today, a diverse array of habitats lie within the proposed study area: open water, tidal emergent marsh, riparian forest, seasonal wetlands, uplands, and agricultural lands. The Delta supports over 45 species of fish and its tidally-influenced wetlands provide rearing and resting habitat for winter-run Chinook salmon, Delta smelt, and Sacramento splittail. The uplands and

agricultural lands provide nesting, resting, and feeding areas for ducks, geese, swans, cranes, other waterbirds, and neotropical songbirds. The proposed refuge would also provide important habitat for seven special status species that occur in the Delta.

WHO TO CONTACT

If you have questions or would like information, please feel free to call or write us:

Information on Proposed North Delta NWR Planning Process

John Castellano, Wildlife Biologist
Sacramento Realty Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2233 Watt Avenue, Suite 375
Sacramento, CA 95825-0509
(916) 979-2085

Information on Proposed North Delta NWR Management

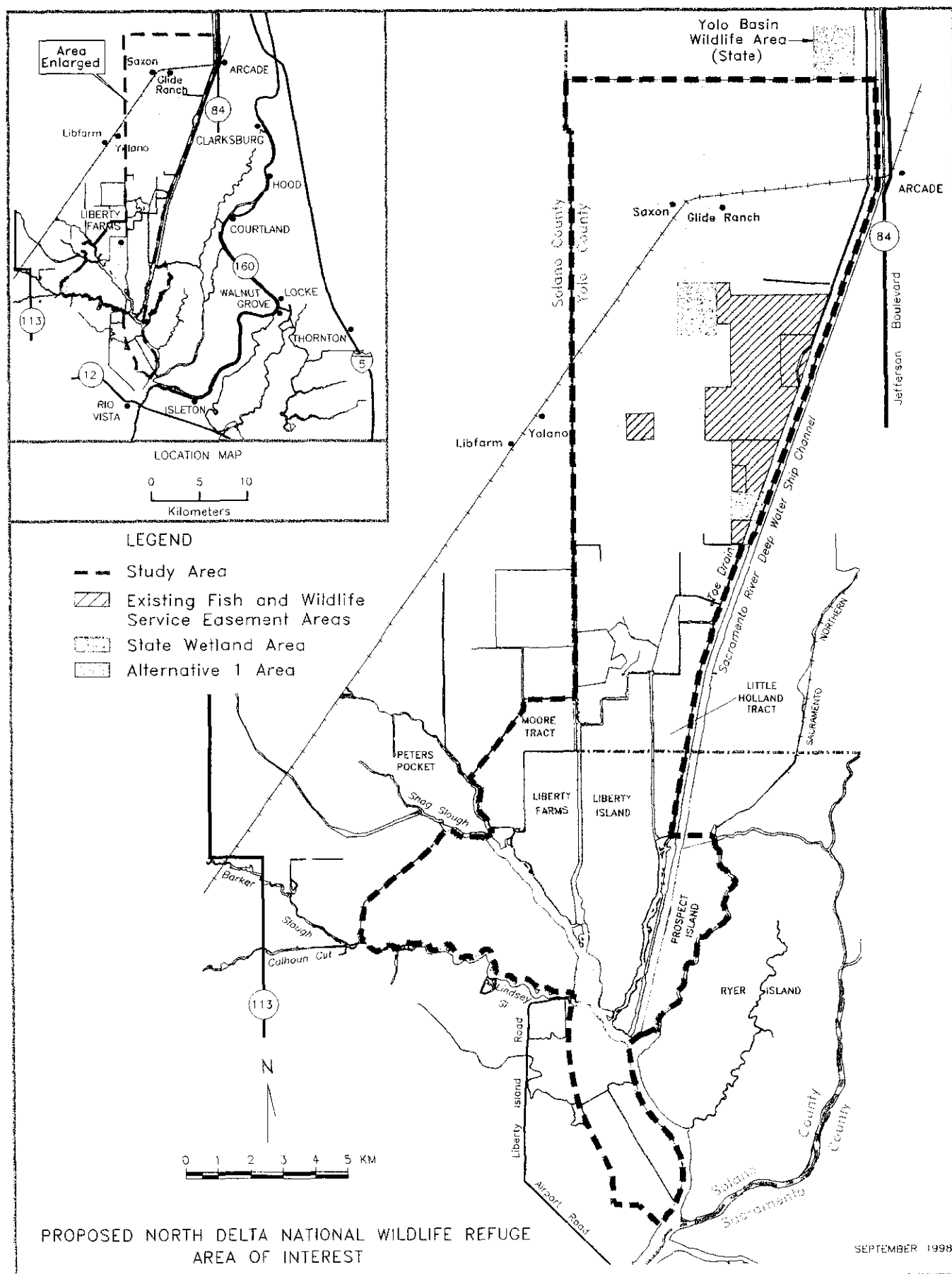
Tom Harvey, Refuge Manager
Beatrix Treiterer, Asst. Refuge Manager
Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge
2233 Watt Avenue, Suite 230
Sacramento, CA 95825-0509
(916) 979-2085

Information on Proposed North Delta NWR Land Acquisition

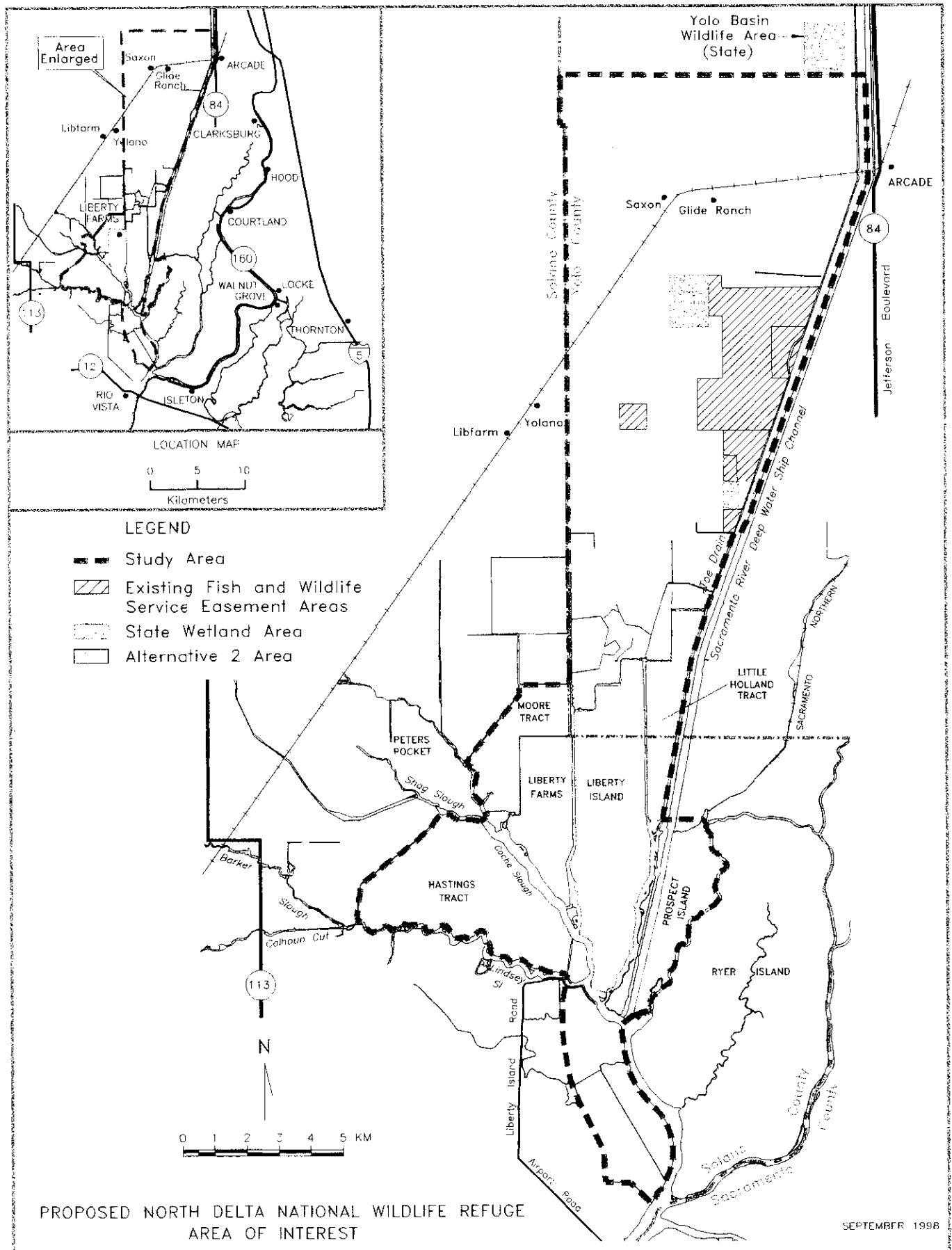
Karen Bierley, Realty Specialist
Sacramento Realty Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2233 Watt Avenue, Suite 375
Sacramento, CA 95825-0509
(916) 979-2085

***Please call to be placed on our mailing list or to report a change in your mailing address.*

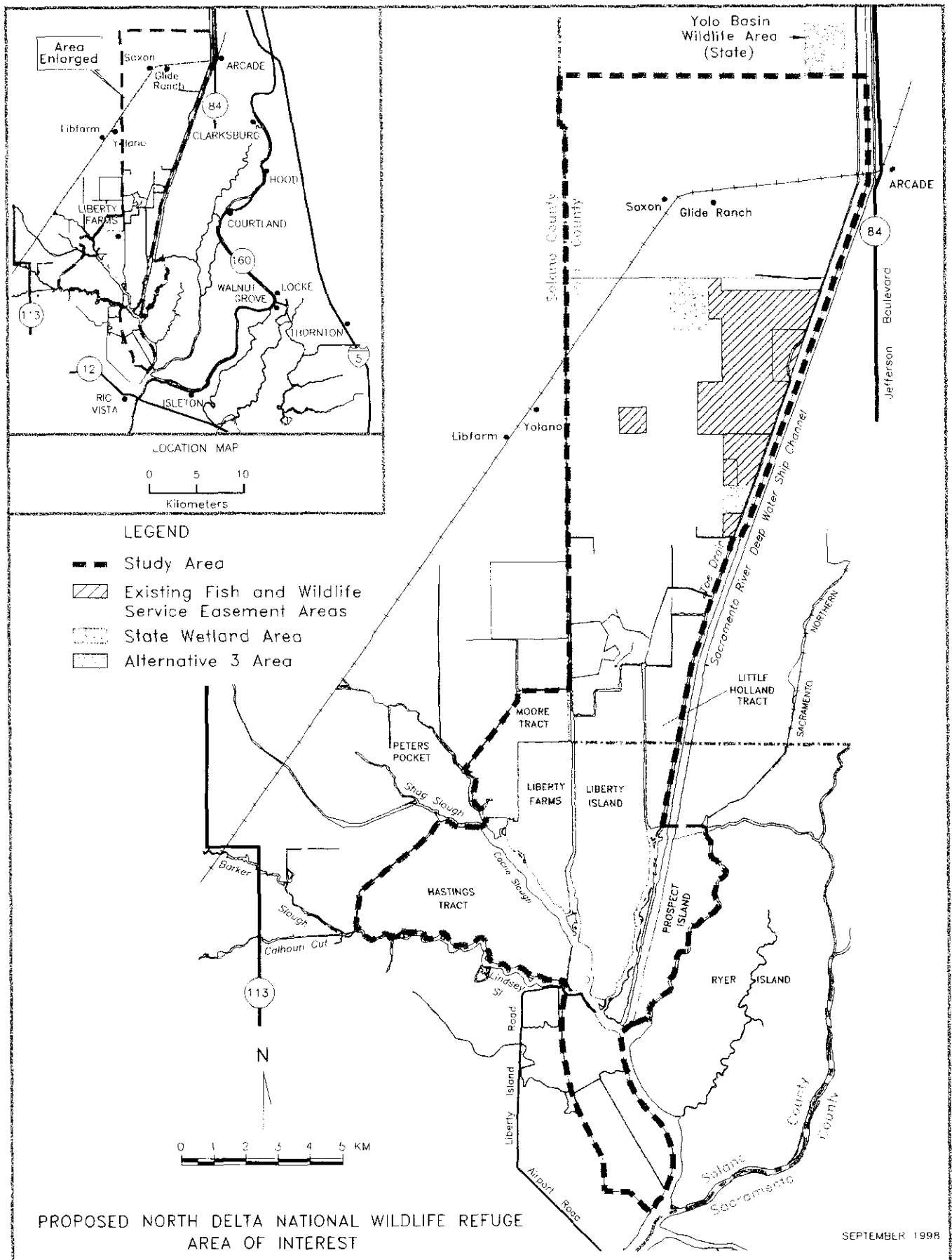
Alternative 1 – (47,000 Acres)



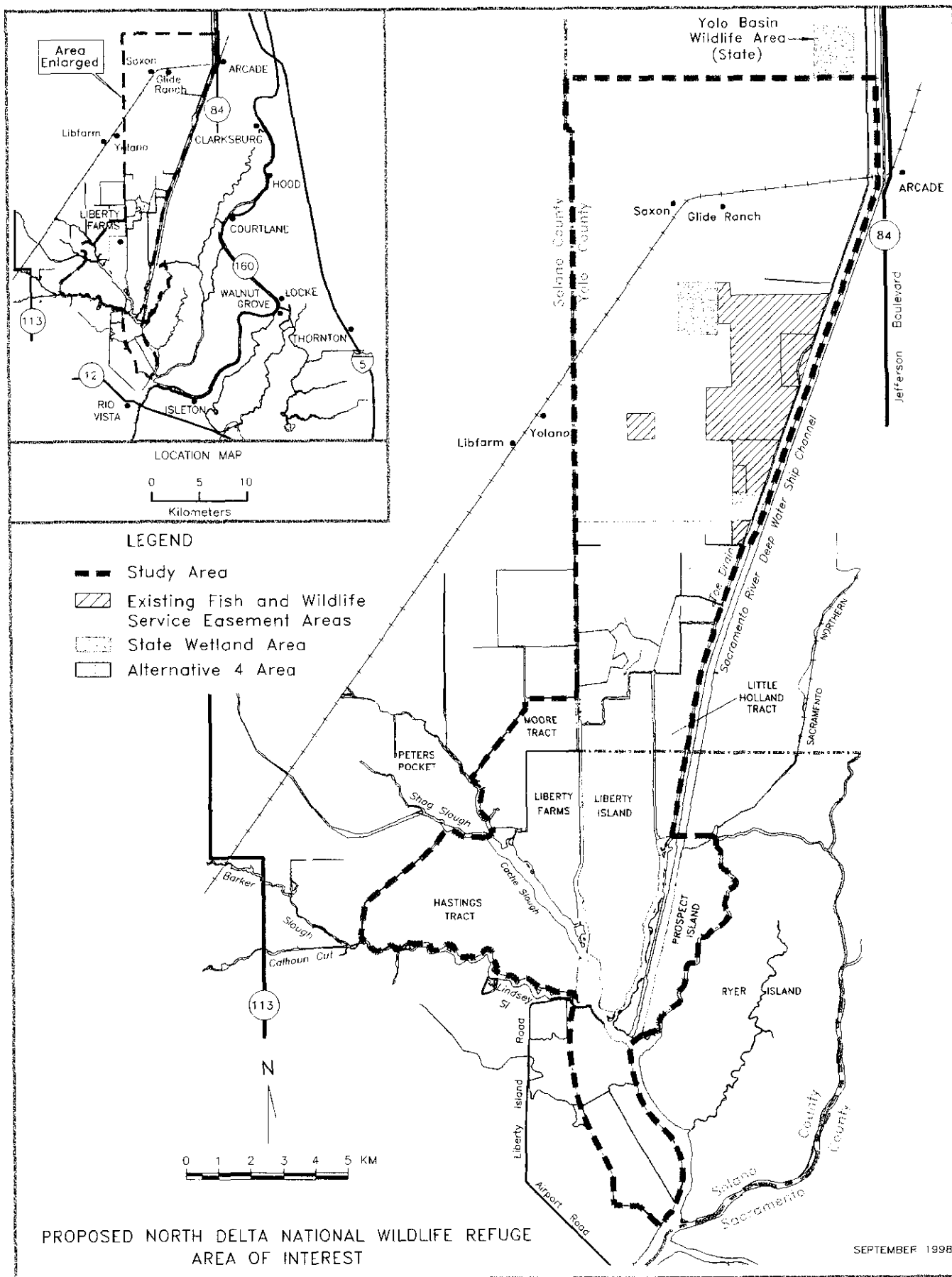
Alternative 2 - (7,800 Acres)



Alternative 3 - (33,000 Acres)



Alternative 4 – (14,000 Acres)



Appendix D: Additional Biosketches

Additional Jones and Stokes Staff: Biosketches:

Gus Yates is a hydrologist specializing in groundwater and surface-water flow modeling and habitat hydrology. Using mathematical modeling and graphical, statistical, and optimization methods, he evaluates hydrologic constraints and opportunities for aquatic, wetland, riparian, and upland habitats. Mr. Yates integrates information regarding climate, streamflow, hydrogeology, water quality, and water requirements of aquatic and riparian habitats to evaluate impacts of development projects on affected habitats and to design habitat restoration projects. His recent work includes integration of technical information related to hydrology, geomorphology, vegetation ecology, and fish biology into a conceptual and mathematical ecosystem functions model for Central Valley rivers. He also reviewed finite-element flood hydraulics models for two previous Yolo Bypass restoration efforts and used simulation results to estimate potential flood impacts of the Service proposed North Delta National Wildlife Refuge. Other local projects include development of the Willow Slough Watershed Integrated Resources Management Plan in Yolo County, and serving as the expert hydrologist in successful litigation to increase instream flows in lower Putah Creek.

Mr. Yates was certified as a professional hydrogeologist by the American Institute of Hydrology in 1992. Before joining Jones & Stokes Associates, he worked for 8 years as a groundwater hydrologist with the U.S. Geologic Survey. Mr. Yates received an M.S. in water science from the University of California, Davis, in 1985; and a B.A. in geology from Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1979.

John Ranlett is a resource ecologist with Jones & Stokes Associates and is responsible for designing habitat restoration and mitigation plans that have included work in riparian and oak woodland, permanent and seasonal emergent marsh, grassland, and vernal pool habitats. These plans integrate the needs of waterfowl and other non-game wildlife, including shorebirds and songbirds, into the habitat design. Mr. Ranlett is familiar with delta wetland habitats, having conducted many years of shorebird censuses in the Delta and Yolo Bypass area while assisting Point Reyes Bird Observatory with its 5-year inland shorebird census project conducted in the early 1990s, and having assisted with wetland habitat restoration plans for several public- and private-sector restoration projects in the Delta. Mr. Ranlett is also the volunteer manager of the 430-acre Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary, where he coordinates actions to restore the mixed riparian woodland that was destroyed by fire in 1992. He also manages avian research, including coordinating a sanctuary-wide breeding-bird census program and operating a bird-banding station that is part of a nationwide program that monitors neotropical migrant songbird populations through constant effort mist-netting and bird banding. Based on his knowledge of wetland, riparian, and floodplain habitats and the wildlife occurring there, he will ensure integration of restoration design elements that maximize benefits for fish and wildlife. Mr. Ranlett received a B.S. in biology from California State University, Sacramento, in 1985.

Warren Shaul is a senior environmental scientist and project manager with Jones & Stokes Associates. Mr. Shaul has extensive experience evaluating fisheries issues for Central Valley species to provide clear

direction in meeting habitat restoration project objectives. He first recognized the importance of floodplain habitat to juvenile chinook salmon and splittail during his field sampling in the Sutter Bypass in 1992 and 1993. Since then, he has documented passage problems and habitat use in the Sacramento and Yolo Bypasses and the floodplains of the Sacramento, Feather, and American Rivers. He has developed methods to assess impacts from proposed water-management changes on anadromous fishes in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River basins. His methods interface with hydrologic, water quality, and project operations and planning models. He is thoroughly familiar with the life history and environmental requirements of fishes throughout the Sacramento-San Joaquin River system. Mr. Shaul received an M.S. in fisheries from Oregon State University, Corvallis, in 1984; and a B.S. in biology from Humboldt State University, Arcata, California in 1972.

Steve Chainey is a plant ecologist and revegetation expert with experience in riparian and freshwater wetland restoration. Mr. Chainey has coordinated or managed natural resource management plans for the 13,000 acres of open space surrounding Concord Naval Weapons Station, the 2,500-acre buffer lands of the Sacramento Wastewater Treatment Plant, the University of California's Putah Creek Riparian Reserve, and the Yolo Basin wetlands complex. His wetland and riparian restoration projects have included Sacramento River revegetation for the Corps, irrigation canal and slough revegetation for the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, wildlife and wetland habitat enhancements in converted flood detention basins for private developers and for the City of Davis, and several habitat mitigation projects for private developments in the Sacramento Valley.

Mr. Chainey has managed several large-scale wetland research projects, including experimental vernal pool creation for Caltrans and creation of over 250 acres of experimental watergrass wetlands under severe flooding and drawdown conditions for the Delta Wetlands project. Large-scale habitat restoration projects designed and managed by Mr. Chainey include 75 acres of mixed wetland/upland habitats on Elmwood Tract for the Grupe Development Corporation, a 600-acre riparian and wetland enhancement plan for a natural preserve on Laguna Creek for the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District, and a 200-acre wetland and restoration project at Upper Beach Lake. His major planning and impact assessment projects included the EIS for the proposed Stone Lakes NWR in Sacramento County and the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area and Wetlands Complex Concept Plan, which involved a 110,000-acre study area slated for several thousand acres of public and private wetland and upland habitat creation. Both studies involve impact assessment and opportunities and constraints analysis of complex resource issues and land management alternatives. Mr. Chainey has additional expertise in the coordination of flood control plans and hydraulic modeling with vegetation management and landform design for habitat in floodways. He has also facilitated numerous design charrettes and conflict resolution efforts between public agencies, private landowners, and community and conservation interest groups.

Mr. Chainey received an M.S. in range and wildlands science and a B.S. in landscape architecture from the University of California, Davis, in 1987 and 1984, respectively.

Alice McKee is a licensed landscape architect (California No. 4268) and environmental restoration

specialist with experience in a variety of multidisciplinary resource management projects and studies, including conceptual design and planning, design development, and production of construction documents and written reports. Her project experience includes environmental planning; habitat restoration planning and design; design for ecologically sensitive areas; land use, open space, and natural resources management plan preparation; park, open space, and recreation trail design; interpretive exhibit design; and public involvement facilitation. Her expertise includes integrating public access, recreation, and environmental education with habitat restoration and preservation.

Ms. McKee is currently assisting with public involvement facilitation for the Lower Butte Creek project, a stakeholder-driven, grassroots effort that focuses on developing mutually beneficial solutions for improving fish passage while maintaining the viability of agricultural, seasonal wetlands, and other habitats and land use concerns; coordinating the Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers flood damage reduction and habitat restoration projects; and assisting the Yolo Basin Foundation with developing a Ecosystem Restoration Strategy in the Yolo Bypass under a grant from CALFED. Additional experience includes writing a multidisciplinary management plan for riparian, tidal lagoon, and upland habitat restoration at the Carmel River Lagoon site, in Carmel, California, including providing recommendations for land use, public access, and public environmental education in conjunction with habitat restoration and sensitive habitat preservation; preparing an analysis of site conditions and conceptual alternatives, including design of access trails, irrigation systems, and wildlife enhancement structures, for a multidisciplinary report on restoration of riparian and oak woodland habitats at the Friant-Kern Canal Restoration Site along the King's River in Fresno County, California; and assisting with state and federal environmental compliance for the Wildhorse project in Davis, California.

Ms. McKee received a B.L.A. in landscape architecture from the University of Oregon, Eugene, in 1994; and a B.A. in English and political science (French minor) from the University of Oregon Honors College, Eugene, in 1990.

Nicholas Dennis, Ph.D., is a project manager with Jones & Stokes Associates who has more than 20 years of experience in natural resources planning. Dr. Dennis is a registered professional forester and a resource economist. He managed watershed analyses for a program environmental impact report (EIR) for Soquel Demonstration State Forest in Santa Cruz County, for Georgia-Pacific Corporation's habitat conservation plan (HCP) for the Fort Bragg Timberlands, and for a program timberland EIR for Hearst Forests in Shasta and Siskiyou Counties. He served as the watershed task leader for a program EIR for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's statewide vegetation management program.

As a resource economist, Dr. Dennis has extensive experience in developing strategies for economic development based on sustainable use of natural resources. He prepared economic impact assessments for the proposed North Delta National Wildlife Refuge (which includes Liberty Island); for wildlife refuges in Sacramento County, California and Stevens County, Washington; for a statewide habitat conservation plan for the northern spotted owl; for wild and scenic river designations for several streams in California; and for water rights allocations in the Mono Basin. He is preparing an assessment of the economic and social effects of recreation use in the Lake Tahoe Basin as part of a watershed assessment for that basin, one of

the Presidential Forum Deliverables. Dr. Dennis prepared a forest management plan for open space land in Sacramento, recommending management prescriptions for uses to include commercial forest, arboretum, recreational trails, habitat enhancement, and agriculture. He is the author of an award-winning assessment of the impacts of farmland conversion in California.

Dr. Dennis received a Ph.D. in forest economics from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1981; and an M.S. and a B.S. in forestry from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in 1974 and 1972, respectively.

Kelly Berger has over 12 years of experience managing geographic information system (GIS) and is an expert at applying GIS technology to natural resources management and environmental analysis programs. Mr. Berger's GIS project experience includes spotted owl habitat analysis, beaver habitat analysis, watershed management and modeling programs, and urban impact analysis. He has produced GIS needs assessments for the Indian Natural Resources Agencies (through the U.S. Agency for International Development), South Tahoe Public Utility District, and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. Mr. Berger received a B.A. in geography (environmental planning emphasis) from the University New Mexico, Albuquerque, in 1986.

Barry Scott is an archaeologist with more than 13 years of experience in prehistoric and historic archaeology. Mr. Scott has extensive experience conducting cultural resource research, inventories, and impact evaluations. Mr. Scott meets the Secretary of the Interior's guidelines for professional qualifications to conduct archaeological studies, is certified by the Society of Professional Archaeologists in field research and museology, and has received training in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), including the Section 106 process. His professional experience includes directing large and small cultural resource surveys; subsurface archaeological testing; artifact analysis; report preparation; and coordination with local, state, and federal agencies.

Since joining Jones & Stokes Associates, Mr. Scott has conducted several cultural resources investigations for compliance with California Environmental Quality Act regulations and Section 106 of the NHPA. Projects Mr. Scott has directed include a cultural resources investigation for a 600-mile-long fiber optic cable project extending from Sonoma County to southwestern Oregon; a 1,200-acre survey in Sequoia National Forest; archaeological test excavations in Monterey County; and several cultural resources investigations for water pipelines, road intersection improvements, bridge replacements, and wastewater treatment plant expansion projects throughout California.

Mr. Scott received an M.A. and a B.A. in anthropology (archaeology emphasis), from California State University, Sacramento, in 1988 and 1983, respectively.

Department of Water Resources and Department of Fish and Game: Biosketches:

Fisheries Monitoring: Field work to be conducted by one DFG biologist and two scientific aides.
Data analysis and report writing to be prepared by:

Mike Chotkowski: Ph.D. Biology, M.A. Biology (Mathematical Ecology)
Biologist (M/F, Range B) with CDFG

9 years experience in marine and freshwater fish studies, with 1 year of work in the Delta; experience includes research program design, statistics, field techniques, data analysis and interpretation, and report/article preparation.

Wildlife Monitoring: Field work to be conducted by one DFG biologist and one scientific aide. Data analysis and report writing to be prepared by:

Laurie Briden: B.A. Environmental Biology
Associate Wildlife Biologist with DFG

12 years of experience conducting threatened and endangered avian, mammalian, and herp field surveys

Laureen Thompson: B.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Biology
Range B Wildlife Biologist with DFG

7 years of technical and practical experience with the identification, management and collection of ecological data associated with avian, and mammal species. Experience includes implementing wildlife surveys, inventories, and scientific research projects and 3 years conducting threatened and endangered avian, mammalian, and herp field surveys.

Water quality: Field work to be conducted by one DWR Control Systems Engineer, one biologist, and one scientific aide. Data analysis and report writing to be prepared by Katie Wadsworth.

Katie Wadsworth: M.S. Environmental Science and B.S. Environmental Biology
Environmental Specialist III

5 years of experience in the Delta, including the design, collection, analysis, and interpretation of data.

Vegetation: Field work to be conducted by one DWR biologist and one scientific aide. Data analysis and report writing to be prepared by:

Jean Witzman: M.S. Botany and B.A. Biology Education
Environmental Specialist III with DWR

10 years experience as a professional botanist; experience in vegetation mapping, sensitive plant surveys, collection of ecological data; monitoring species and plant community response to project operations; wetland delineation; and permitting and report writing for environmental compliance.

Kent Nelson: B.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Biology
Recreation and Wildlife Resources Advisor with DWR

Eight years of experience on the Delta Flood Protection Program (SB 34), a \$12 million per year

program to provide improved flood protection through levee maintenance and improvement, including comprehensive biological monitoring programs to determine benefits for fish and wildlife resources.

Phytoplankton: Field work to be conducted by one DWR biologist and one scientific aide. Data analysis and report writing to be prepared by:

Peggy Lehman: Ph.D. Ecology (aquatic ecology), M.S. Ecology,
B.S. Renewable Natural Resources
Environmental Specialist IV with DWR

15 years experience conducting research and data analysis on the influence of water quality variables on phytoplankton biomass and species composition in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Published reports and peer-reviewed journal articles on long-term trends in phytoplankton ecology and water quality.

Zooplankton: Field work to be conducted by one DWR biologist and one scientific aide. Data analysis and report writing to be prepared by:

James J. Orsi: M.S. Marine Fisheries, B.S. Biology
Senior Specialist, DFG

26 years experience as the project leader for Neomysis and zooplankton studies in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Estuary. Author of 14 published articles on mysid shrimp and zooplankton and 3 articles on fish.

Benthic Community Monitoring:

Cindy Messer: B.S. Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning
Environmental Specialist, DWR
Lead biologist for the DWR D-1485 water quality and benthic monitoring project.

Bathymetry: Field work to be conducted by two DWR engineers and one scientific aide. Data analysis and report writing to be prepared by:

Howard Mann: B.S. Civil Engineering
Senior Engineer, DWR
23 years experience including surveying, operation and maintenance of gaging stations, managing various scour monitoring programs, performing channel bottom soundings and other special studies in the Delta.

Organic Carbon: Field work to be conducted by one DWR biologist and one scientific aide. Data analysis and report writing to be prepared by Peggy Lehman and Collette Zemitis:

Peggy Lehman: Ph.D. Ecology. Environmental Specialist IV.

15 years experience in water quality in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta including studies in food-web ecology. (see also Phytoplankton).

Collette Zemitis: M.S. Agricultural and Environmental Chemistry and B.S. Biology.

Environmental Specialist III with DWR

4 years experience in Municipal Water Quality Investigations unit studying organic carbon and disinfection by-product precursors in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Appendix E: Letters of Support

Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture

County of Sacramento/Dept. of Regional Parks, Recreation & Open Space

National Audubon Society/California

The Trust for Public Land

Sacramento Open Space

Sacramento Open Space Conservancy

Sierra Club

Stone Lakes Refuge Alliance



CENTRAL VALLEY HABITAT JOINT VENTURE

North American Waterfowl Management Plan

April 13, 1999

American
Farmland Trust
California Waterfowl
Association
Ducks Unlimited
National Audubon
Society
The Nature Conservancy
The Trust for Public Land

Mr. Lester Snow
CALFED Bay-Delta Program Office
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr Snow,

This letter acknowledges the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture's strong support for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's request for CALFED funds to help acquire properties on and begin restoration of Liberty Island.

Liberty Island is in the core of the proposed North Delta National Wildlife Refuge and in the heart of CALFED's North Delta Corridor. It's protection and restoration are vitally linked to restoration, flood control, and species recovery plans for this region. Funding of the project will help provide linkages to neighboring wildlife corridors, such as the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area and the Stone Lakes/Cosumnes Basin. It will clearly advance many of CALFED's objectives for the region.

Protection and restoration of Liberty Island, in concert with adjacent areas, will restore aquatic habitat to benefit many Priority I-IV species, including Delta smelt, salmon, and other fisheries. The newly created tidal and seasonal wetlands and riparian corridors will benefit scores of water-associated resident and migratory species, including many species at risk. All of these species are the focus of programs and recovery efforts managed by the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture partners.

Acquisition of the remaining Liberty Island properties will allow a coordinated restoration and management effort on Liberty Island which will complement similar efforts being developed for Prospect Island and Little Holland Tract. We support such ecosystem wide management programs and urge you to give this proposal your highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel Taylor
Chairman



County of Sacramento
Department of Regional Parks, Recreation
and Open Space



April 8, 1999

RECREATION & PARK
AND
FISH & GAME COMMISSION

Robert J. Bastian
Michele McCormick
Theodore M. Robinson
Art White
Louis Zimmerle

CALFED Bay-Delta Program Office
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RONALD D. SUTER
Director

DEPUTY DIRECTORS
Roy Imai - Planning &
Regional Parks
Gary Kukkola - American
River Parkway
Thom Oliver - Golf

Dear Sirs:

This letter is written to express strong support from Regional Parks Department and the County of Sacramento as a whole, to the grant request that Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge staff is submitting to CALFED to fund full acquisition of Liberty Island and its restoration.

Liberty Island lies in the core of the proposed refuge and within CALFED's North Delta Corridor. The proposed acquisition effort is greatly strengthened by the fact that the property owners are willing sellers and that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is offering fair market value.

The proposed restoration is envisioned to: a) restore aquatic habitat to benefit Delta smelt, salmon, and other sensitive species, b) create tidal, seasonally flooded wetlands to benefit scores of water-associated resident and migratory species, including species at risk, such as the northern pintail and giant garter snake, c) link Delta habitats to other wildlife corridors, such as the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and the Stone Lakes/Cosumnes River Basin, and d) support the habitat, wildlife, and ecosystem goals of many other agencies and organizations, including the mission of refuges operated by the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The cost to fully acquire and restore Liberty Island would be money well spent towards Fish and Wildlife Service' proven track record of strong and effective partnerships that nurture habitat and wildlife and benefit our ecosystem.

We urge your highest consideration of Fish and Wildlife Service' grant proposal.

Sincerely,

Ron Suter
Director

cc: Tom Harvey, USFWS

jc (usfwsgrt.ltr)

National Audubon Society



California

555 Audubon Place
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 481-5332
(916) 481-6228 fax

National Audubon Society
Chapters of California

April 16, 1999

Altacal
Buena Vista
Central Sierra
Conejo Valley
Eagle Lake
Eastern Sierra
El Dorado
Fresno
Golden Gate
Kern
Kerncrest
Laguna Hills
Lake Almanor
La Purisima
Los Angeles
Madrone
Marble Mountain
Marin
Mendocino Coast
Monterey Peninsula
Morro Coast
Mount Diablo
Mount Shasta Area
Napa-Solano
North Cuesta
Ohlone
Palomar
Palos Verdes/South Bay
Pasadena
Peregrine
Plumas
Pomona Valley
Redbud
Redwood Region
Sacramento
San Bernardino Valley
San Diego
San Fernando Valley
San Joaquin
Santa Barbara
Santa Clara Valley
Santa Monica Bay
Sea and Sage
Sequoia
Sierra Foothills
South Coast
Stanislaus
Tulare County
Ventura
Whittier
Wintu
Yolo
Yosemite Area

CALFED Bay-Delta Program Office
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Bay-Delta Program Officer:

On behalf of Audubon's 67,000 members and 53 affiliated local chapters in California, I respectfully request that you support CALFED funding of \$2.25 million dollars for acquisition and restoration of tidal and riparian habitats on Liberty Island within the proposed North Delta National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The property will be acquired from willing sellers; the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will pay the willing sellers appraised fair market value for their properties.

Establishment of the North Delta NWR will link Delta habitats to other key regional wildlife areas (e.g. Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, Stone Lakes/Consumnes River Basin), thereby securing a regional wildlife corridor which will ensure greater biodiversity for the North Delta/Southern Sacramento River Valley. Audubon-California supports such efforts aimed at linking critical bird habitats, and has long supported the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System and our many public and private partners who seek to preserve the Central Valley's biodiversity.

Acquisition of the available properties also represents a prime opportunity for restoration of critical wildlife habitat within CALFED's North Delta Corridor. Audubon-California is particularly excited about the potential for tidal wetland and riparian forest restoration projects on these properties. Restoration of these habitats would in turn benefit many at risk migratory and resident bird species such as the northern pintail.

We encourage you to support USFWS' request for CalFed funding for the North Delta Unit. Please do not hesitate to contact Audubon-California if we can be of any assistance to you as you consider this request.

Thank you for giving our concerns your attention.

Sincerely,

Daniel Taylor
Executive Director





Conserving Land
for People

April 14, 1999

CALFED Bay-Delta Program Office
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

To Whom It May Concern:

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) wishes to express its strong support for the funding request by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, for acquisition and restoration of Liberty Island and the related properties, part of the proposed North Delta National Wildlife Refuge. TPL is working with FWS to obtain this important property.

The remainder of Liberty Island and the related properties to the north are critical to the FWS's North Delta NWR and to CALFED's efforts to restore the Delta, the source of nearly 20 million Californian's drinking water. These properties could be restored to freshwater tidal wetland and floodplain, from their current use for seasonal agriculture.

Acquisition and restoration of Liberty Island and the related properties are critical components to flood control and species recovery plans for the region. Protection of this property would also increase the Shaded Riverine Aquatic habitat (SRA) and natural water filtration, and help provide linkages to neighboring wildlife corridors, such as the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area and the Stone Lakes/Cosumnes Basin.

Restoration of Liberty Island and the related properties to tidally-influenced aquatic and wetland habitats would greatly improve regional habitat for such endangered fish species as salmon, Delta smelt, and Sacramento splittail, as well as many migratory bird species. As a secondary benefit of restoration, the resulting higher surface area to water volume ratio of these channels would improve overall water quality by enhancing oxygen levels and allowing sediments and emergent plants to absorb excess nutrients.

The Trust for Public Land
Western Region
116 New Montgomery
Third Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

(415) 495-5660
Fax (415) 495-0541

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Page 2

April 14, 1999

TPL would assist FWS in this proposal by securing the property for eventual conveyance to FWS. TPL would also work towards securing any additional public and private funding sources needed to complete the habitat protection goals of the Refuge, as well as to leverage the CALFED Bay-Delta grant.

We hope that you join us in support of this important conservation effort, and that you give this proposal your utmost consideration. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N. Mathews', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nelson Mathews

Western Rivers Program Director

SACRAMENTO OPEN SPACE



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April 12, 1999

CALFED Bay-Delta Program Office
1416 9th Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support of Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge request for acquisition and restoration funding for Liberty Island

To Whom It May Concern:

Sacramento Open Space (SOS) is a local nonprofit volunteer organization which promotes the preservation and wise use of open space resources in Sacramento County and the surrounding region. We enthusiastically support the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge's request for funds to purchase properties from willing sellers on Liberty Island, develop plans for restoring the island, and restore it to tidal and riparian habitats.

Liberty Island is in the core of the proposed North Delta National Wildlife Refuge, and its restoration will benefit Delta smelt, salmon and other sensitive species. Its tidal and seasonally flooded wetlands will also benefit many resident and migratory species that are at risk, such as giant garter snake and the northern pintail. In addition, it will link Delta habitats to other wildlife corridors and support the habitat, wildlife and ecosystem goals of SOS, other conservation organizations and the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The Stone Lakes Wildlife Refuge has an outstanding record of success in developing effective partnerships and tangible results. It has strong support from local agencies, elected officials, volunteer groups, schools and the general public. We encourage you to "stick with a winner" and grant the Refuge's proposal.

Sincerely,


Chris Tooker
President

SACRAMENTO VALLEY OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

April 13, 1999

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CALFED-Bay-Delta Program Office
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Stone Lakes Refuge Land Acquisition and Restoration-Liberty Island

To whom it may concern:

The Sacramento Valley Open Space Conservancy supports the request for land acquisition and restoration of Liberty Island. The Stone Lakes Refuge is a significant resource in our region, and has the potential to house many more migratory birds and other species, including the northern pintail and giant garter snake, with additional land conservation and habitat restoration. This project will link the Refuge to other wildlife corridors, such as the Yolo Bypass and the Cosumnes River Preserve. In addition, the restoration component will provide habitat for Delta smelt, salmon, and other sensitive species.

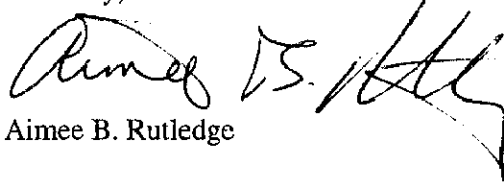
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The Sacramento Valley Open Space Conservancy (SVOSC) is a private, nonprofit, tax exempt organization which exists to facilitate the permanent protection and preservation of natural, agricultural, and recreational open space lands in the Sacramento Valley.

The Conservancy was founded in 1990 on two basic principles—that open lands are necessary for quality of life and that we must care for the land today so future generations may enjoy its physical and spiritual benefits tomorrow.

Sincerely,



Aimee B. Rutledge

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Aimee Rutledge



SIERRA
CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

APR 14 1999

Mother Lode Chapter
1414 K Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814
Tel: (916) 557-1100, x 108
Fax: (916) 557-9669
www.motherlode.org

April 12, 1999

CalFED Bay-Delta Program Office
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

To Whom It May Concern:

I am sending this letter on behalf of the Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club to indicate our support for efforts of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire property and implement restoration plans on Liberty Island.

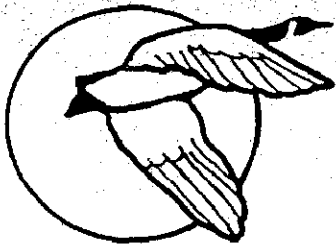
I understand that there are willing sellers and the USFWS is offering fair market value. There is no doubt that restoration of Liberty Island will enhance the habitat values in the emerging wildlife corridor in Sacramento, Yolo, San Joaquin, and Solano counties.

Sierra Club members throughout Northern California are anxious to see wild lands protected, restored, and purchased whenever possible. We would be very pleased to see CalFED support the purchase of Liberty Island.

Please let me know if I can do anything to help with the project. I can be reached during the day at (916) 657-3465 or at vlee2@ibm.net.

Sincerely,

Vicki Lee
Chapter Chair



STONE LAKES REFUGE ALLIANCE

1600 DAY DRIVE • CARMICHAEL, CA 95608 • (916) 486-9624

April 8, 1999

Ms. Cindy Darling
Restoration Coordinator
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 9th Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Dear Ms. Darling,

Re: Funding for Proposed North Delta NWR Land Acquisition

For many years, the Stone Lakes Refuge Alliance has worked for public agency acquisition of wetlands in the Stone Lakes area. Our concern also extends to wildlife areas which will compliment Stone Lakes, areas including the Cosumnes River properties of The Nature Conservancy and the proposed North Delta NWR.

The alliance supports the public acquisition and restoration of Liberty Island as a critical step in the development of a North Delta NWR. This property is at the core of the proposed refuge and is within the CALFED North Delta Corridor. This new refuge will help create an invaluable wildlife complex, when combined with Stone Lakes NWR, the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and the Nature Conservancy's lands in the lower Cosumnes River basin.

These lands will allow the restoration and/or development of seasonally flooded wetlands useful to residential and migratory bird species. It will assist in the restoration of fish species such as salmon and Delta smelt.

As an individual who has been involved in conservation and wildlife issues in the North Delta since 1969, I am pleased to see the progress of the last few years. I hope that CALFED can continue to help in the protection and restoration of the scarce wildlife habitat in California's Great Central Valley.

Bruce Kennedy
President

Table 1. Monitoring Data Collection Information

Hypothesis/Question to be Evaluated	Data Collection and Parameters	Data Evaluation	Comments/Data Priority
Biological/Ecological Objectives			
1. What flows are necessary to drive channel migration or any other desired change in channel form?	channel form from aerial photographs, or field surveys, bed size	Compare time series channel locations and dimensions and correlate changes with hydrologic events. Sheer stress analysis.	
2. Can reservoir releases be modified to increase desirable high flows without creating undesirable water supply impacts?	USGS and other hydrologic data sources.	Model and contrast historic operations with target hydrologic regime and calculate difference in water supply yield.	
3. What reservoir releases are necessary to create overbank flows.	Stage and discharge, backwater models.	Relate water surface elevations to land surface elevations,	
4. How have various components of the Hydrograph changed as a result of reservoir operations.	daily flow data	Utilize Richter approach and statistical program to analyze changes in 33 different variables.	